

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00704 260953Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, KN, US

KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO P'YONGYANG PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH-NORTH

TALKS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SEOUL 278 (DTG 120820Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: AFTER TAKING BRIEFLY FAVORABLE LINE IN THE MORNING, FOLLOWING NEGATIVE EXPRESSION OF ROKG OFFICIAL ON HAPTONG WIRE, KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO NORTH'S PROPOSAL FOR "POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS" ALSO TURNED SHARPLY NEGATIVE IN AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 26. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 26, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS RESPONDED TO STATEMENTS BROADCAST BY P'YONGYANG ON JANUARY 25 PROPOSING "POLITICAL CONFERENCE" TO DISCUSS "INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL UNIFICATION" AND "EASING OF TENSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH AND ELIMINATION OF DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR." HAPTONG STORY DATEDLINED TOKYO WAS GIVEN HEADLINE COVERAGE IN MORNING CHOSON ILBO AND MINOR FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN

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HAN'GUK ILBO. ARTICLE, NOTING THAT PROPOSAL ACCEPTS PRESIDENT PAK'S PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 12 (REFTEL) "WITH ONLY A CHANGE OF NAME," LABELED PROPOSAL "NOTABLE" AND "A CHANGE IN THEIR FORMER POSITION," HOWEVER, FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY IN CHOSON ILBO BY YI TO-HYONG, STATING THAT PROPOSAL TRIES TO "DESTROY KOREA'S PRESENT SYSTEM" AND "GENERATE A DIVISIVE ATMOSPHERE" IN IT, CONCLUDED THAT

SUGGESTION TO MEET AT P'ANMUNJOM OR SOME OTHER
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PLACE REPRESENTS "SOME PROGRESS," BUT
"ULTIMATELY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THIS
PROPOSAL."

2. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE LATER IN DAY OF HAPTONG REPORT
CARRYING NEGATIVE REMARKS FROM UNNAMED ROKG OFFICIAL,
AFTERNOON PAPERS, THOUGH GIVING STORY UNIFORM FRONT-PAGE
COVERAGE, ARE MUCH MORE NEGATIVE IN THEIR RESPONSE. THEY
CALLED PROPOSAL AN "INDIRECT REJECTION" OF PRESIDENT PAK'S
SUGGESTIONS, AND "A REPETITION OF THEIR (NK) CONVENTIONAL
POSITION." TOKYO CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE IN TONGA ILBO
INCLUDES FOR FIRST TIME REFERENCE TO NORTH'S REQUEST
FOR "UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS TOGETHER
WITH POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER PAPERS QUOTE
UNNAMED NORTH KOREAN EXPERTS": "A REPETITION OF NORMAL
POLITICAL PROPAGANDA" (CHUNGANG ILBO). CHUNGANG ILBO,
ONLY PAPER TO CARRY EDITORIAL SO FAR, LABELED PROPOSAL
"ANOTHER START AT THEIR DISGUISED PEACE CAMPAIGN"
AND "A TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO SHAKE THE PRESENT SYSTEM
BY SPLITTING KOREA INTERNALLY."

3. RADIO NEWSCASTS DURING DAY HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE FROM THE
START, BEGINNING ITEMS WITH NOTICE THAT NORTH HAS
"REJECTED" PAK'S PROPOSAL.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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